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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A1
1. (Currently amended) A parallel processing network in which one or more processes can be spawned, comprising:

a plurality of computers coupled together by a communication link; and

process spawning logic included in one of said plurality of computers that automatically spawns processes in response to user specified criteria and that determines whether sufficient processors are available to spawn the processes and, if not, spawns a reduced number of processors based on the number of available processors.

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2. (Original) The parallel processing network of claim 1 wherein the communications link includes a switch.

3. (Original) The parallel processing network of claim 1 wherein the user specified criteria includes a number of processes the spawning logic should spawn.

A2
4. (Currently amended) The parallel processing network ~~logic~~ of claim 3 wherein the user specified criteria also includes a model parameter.

5. (Currently amended) The parallel processing network ~~logic~~ of claim 3 wherein the user specified criteria also includes a maximum number of CPUs to be used per machine to execute processes.

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Cont
A2
6. (Currently amended) The parallel processing network of claim ~~5-4~~ wherein each of the plurality of computers includes a CPU and the model parameter refers to the type of CPU.

7. (Original) The parallel processing network of claim 3 wherein the user specified criteria includes a resource parameter.

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B1
8. (Original) The parallel processing network of claim 7 wherein each of said plurality of computers includes a network interface and the resource parameter refers a type of network interface.

9. (Original) The parallel processing network of claim 1 wherein said process spawning logic compares the user specified criteria to network features.

10. (Original) The parallel processing network of claim 9 wherein the network features are maintained in a process scheduler included in one of said plurality of computers.

11. (Original) The parallel processing network of claim 9 wherein the network features include an identification of which of said plurality of computers is operational and which are nonoperational and the spawning logic.

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12. (Original) The parallel processing network of claim 9 wherein each of said plurality of computers includes a CPU and the network features include the model of CPU.

13. (Original) The parallel processing network of claim 9 wherein each of said plurality of computers includes a network interface resource and the network features include the type of network interface resource.

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14. (Original) The parallel processing network of claim 9 wherein the user specified criteria includes a number of processes to be spawned and, if said spawning logic determines there are insufficient network features to spawn processes in accordance with the user specified criteria, the spawning logic spawns fewer processes than the user specified number of processes.

B3
15. (Currently amended) A parallel processing network, comprising:
a plurality of processors coupled together by a communications link;
a process scheduler accessible by at least one of said processors, said process scheduler maintains a list of network features;
spawning logic coupled to said process scheduler, said spawning logic receives a set of parameters from a user that determine how processes are to be spawned by the root machine, the set of parameters including a user desired number of processes to be spawned, said spawning logic determines whether a sufficient network features number of processors are available to permit the user desired number of processes to be spawned in accordance with the user specified parameters.

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16. (Original) The parallel processing network of claim 15 wherein the user parameters include a particular model of processor to which the processes are to be spawned.

17. (Original) The parallel processing network of claim 16 wherein the user parameters include a particular type of a network resource.

Sub 61 18. (Original) The parallel processing network of claim 17 wherein the spawning logic determines whether sufficient network features are available to permit the user desired number of processes to be spawned by accessing the process scheduler to read the list of network features.

19. (Original) The parallel processing network of claim 17 wherein the user parameters include a maximum number of CPUs to use per machine for spawning processes.

20. (Currently amended) A computer readable storage medium for storing an executable set of software instructions which, when inserted into a host computer system, is capable of controlling the operation of the host computer, said software instructions being operable to automatically spawn parallel processes in a parallel processing network, comprising:

AF a means for receiving user specified criteria;

a means for reading a process scheduler to access a list of features associated with the parallel processing network;

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a means for comparing the list of network features to the user specified criteria; and

a means for spawning a number of processes that is reduced based on the number of
available CPUs.

21. (Original) The computer readable storage medium of claim 20 wherein the user specified criteria includes a user desired number of processes to be spawned and said means for spawning processes includes a means for spawning the user desired number of processes if said means for comparing determines that the parallel processing network has sufficient features in accordance with the user specified criteria.

22. (Original) The computer readable storage medium of claim 21 wherein said means for spawning processes includes spawning fewer than the user desired number of processes if said means for comparing determines that the parallel processing network has insufficient features in accordance with the user specified criteria.

23. (Original) The computer readable storage medium of claim 21 wherein said means for spawning processes includes spawning fewer than the user desired number of processes if said means for comparing determines that the parallel processing network has insufficient CPUs to spawn the user desired number of processes.

24. (Original) A method of creating processes in a multi-processor network, comprising:

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(a) receiving criteria that determine how the processes are to be created, the criteria including a desired number of processes to be created;

(b) comparing the criteria to a database of network features to determine if there are a sufficient number of processors to accommodate the desired number of processes; and

(c) creating processes in accordance with step (b).

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BI 25. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein step (c) includes creating the desired number of processes if step (b) indicates that the criteria can be met with a number of processors equal to the desired number of processes.

26. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein (c) includes creating processes fewer in number than the desired number of processes if step (b) indicates that the criteria cannot be met with a number of processors equal to the desired number of processes.

27. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein step (a) includes receiving criteria that also include a model of processor and a resource type for running processes.

28. (Original) The method of claim 27 wherein the resource type includes a network interface resource type.

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29. (Currently amended) A method for spawning processes in a multiprocessor network, comprising:

A5 (a) specifying whether processes are to be spawned automatically to match a set of criteria or spawned in accordance with a process group file;

sub (b) spawning processes to match the criteria if automatic spawning is specified in step (a);

131 (c) spawning processes in accordance with the process group file if so specified in step (a).

30. (Original) The method of claim 29 further including determining whether the multiprocessor network matches the set of criteria if automatic spawning is specified in step (a).